

CLAIMS

1. A method of processing information with a system provided with at least two processing devices coupled to a network, the method comprising:

- receiving a definition of a job for processing information from a user of the system;
- automatically checking whether processing devices belonging to a predetermined set selected from at least two processing devices are suitable for performing the job;
- presenting and indication for each processing device of the set, to the user via presentation means, of whether the same is suitable for performing the job;
- receiving a selection of a processing device belonging to the set; and
- transmitting at least a part of the job to the selected processing device.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least two processing devices are printing devices.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein if a processing device is not suitable for performing the job, then a reason for this is indicated via the presentation means.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the indication of a reason that a processing device is not suitable for performing the job is made in response to the said processing device having been selected by the user.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein a part of the defined job is presented to the user.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job comprises a setting of the job.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job is presented to the user simultaneously with said indication the processing devices of the set via the presentation means.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the selected processing device is indicated on the presentation means.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein after a confirmation of a selection of
2 a processing device, the job is passed to the selected processing device.

1 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein confirmation of the selection is
2 received from the user of the system.

1 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein a prediction as to what will be the
2 selected processing device is predicted by the system on the basis of a predetermined
3 criterion, after which the a change from the predicted selection can be received from the
4 user.

1 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a processing
2 property of the processing device.

1 13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a distance
2 between the user and the processing device.

1 14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is availability of the
2 processing device.

1 15. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is the processing cost.

1 16. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a previously
2 indicated personal preference of the user.

1 17. The method according to claim 1, further comprising indicating via the
2 presentation means separately whether at least one processing device belonging to the
3 set is suitable for performing the job.

1 18. The method of processing information with a system comprising one
2 processing device and presentation means, the method comprising:
3 receiving a definition of a job for processing information from a user of the system;
4 automatically checking whether the processing device is suitable for performing
5 the job; and

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6 indicating, if the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, a reason
7 therefor via the presentation means.

1 19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the reason is indicated if the
2 processing device is allocated by a user of the system.

1 20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the processing device is a printing
2 device.

1 21. A system for processing information, the system comprising:
2 a network to which are coupled the following;
3 at least two processing devices;
4 defining means for defining a job for processing information;
5 research means for checking whether processing devices belonging to a
6 predetermined set selected from the at least two processing devices are suitable for
7 performing the defined job;
8 presentation means for presenting an indication, for each processing device of the
9 set, of whether the same is suitable for performing the defined job; and
10 selection means for selecting a processing device.

1 22. The system according to claim 21, further comprising first indicating means to
2 indicate, in the event that the research means has determined that a displayed
3 processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing device is not
4 suitable for performing the job.

1 23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the presentation means indicate
2 why said processing device is not suitable.

1 24. The system according to claim 22, further comprising allocating means for
2 allocating a processing device, said allocating means being connected to the display
3 means in such manner that in response to the allocation of the processing device the
4 indicating means indicate why this processing device is not suitable.

1 25. The system according to claim 24, wherein the allocation means are
2 controllable by a user of the system.

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4 research means for checking whether the processing device is suitable for
5 performing the defined job; and

6 indicating means to indicate a reason, in the event that the research means show
7 that the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing
8 device is not suitable for performing the job.

1 36. The system according to claim 35, further comprising allocation means for
2 allocating the processing device in such manner that the indicating means indicate why
3 the processing device is not suitable if the same has been allocated by means of the
4 allocation means.

1 37. The system according to claim 35, wherein the processing device is a printing
2 device.

1 38. The computer program element comprising computer program code means for
2 causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 1.

1 39. The computer program element comprising computer program code means for
2 causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 18.